



SILSDEN

URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL.

Sixty-first

Annual Report of the Medical Officer of Health

for the Year 1940.

To the Chairman and Members of the District Council.

GENTLEMEN,

I beg to lay before you my Report on the Health and Sanitary Condition of your District for the year ending 31st December, 1940.

The Report is an "Ordinary Report" drawn up on the lines suggested in the Ministry of Health Circular 1961 and, in accordance with the economy cuts recommended by the Central Authority and local Councils, repetition is avoided by reference to information given in previous Reports.

The year has been comparatively uneventful, though work in connection with A.R.P. increased.

From non-notifiable infectious disease, excepting Measles and Chicken Pox, the district was comparatively free. From notifiable infections it was also comparatively free, except for Scarlet Fever, which, however, was less prevalent than in the previous five years.

Trade conditions improved throughout the year, largely due to military requirements. Vital statistics show Birth-rate=12·78, Death-rate=14·34, and Infant Mortality=79.

A.—NATURAL AND SOCIAL CONDITIONS IN THE DISTRICT.

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|----------------------|---|------------------|
| 1. PHYSICAL FEATURES | } | See 1930 Report. |
| 2. SOCIAL CONDITIONS | | |

3. GENERAL DETAILS OF THE DISTRICT.

Area (acres)	...	...	...	...	...	...	7,101
Population (1921 Census)	...	...	...	...	...	...	4,880
Population (1931 Census)	...	...	...	...	...	...	4,906
Population (1940 estimated)	...	...	...	...	...	...	4,925
Inhabited Houses (1940 estimated)	...	...	...	...	...	...	1,720
Rateable Value	...	...	...	...	...	...	£26,350
Sum represented by a Penny Rate	...	...	...	...	...	...	£105

VITAL STATISTICS.

(a) BIRTHS.

The Births registered as occurring in or belonging to the District were 63.

Legitimate	...	...	33 males and 29 females.
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Illegitimate	...	...	0 male and 1 female.
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Birth-rate on an estimated population of 4,925 is equivalent to 12·7 per 1,000, compared with 11·6, 10·9 and 12·9 in the previous three years, with 12·4 for the Craven Combined Districts, and with 14·6 for England and Wales.

(b) DEATHS.

The deaths, after correction by the inward transfer of residents dying outside the District and the outward transfer of non-residents dying inside the District, numbered 35 males and 36 females—a total of 71.

The Death-rate is thus 14·3, compared with 14·6, 14·3 and 14·5 in the previous three years, with 14·3 for the Craven Combined Districts, and 14·3 for England and Wales.

(c) INFANT MORTALITY.

The infant deaths, as corrected by the Registrar General, were 4 males and 1 female.

The infant mortality was therefore 79 per 1,000 births, compared with 34, 18 and 0 in the previous three years, with 51 for the Craven Districts and 55 for England and Wales.

(d) STILL BIRTHS.

Number of still births registered, 4.

Percentage of still births to total births (alive and still) 5·9, compared with 3·7 in Craven Urban and 4·7 in Craven Rural.

(e) MATERNAL MORTALITY.

Number of maternal deaths from puerperal causes—0.

Mortality rate per 1,000 total births (live and still)—nil, compared with 3·9 for the Craven Combined District and with 2·1 for England and Wales.

ZYMOTIC DISEASES.

The seven principal zymotic diseases, namely, Small Pox, Measles, Whooping Cough, Scarlet Fever, Diphtheria, Enteric Fever and Diarrhœa, were responsible for 0 deaths during the year.

The zymotic death-rate, therefore, was nil, compared with ·2, ·2 and ·0 in the previous three years, and with ·05 in the Craven Combined Districts.

CAUSES OF DEATH.

Causes of Death in Silsden Urban District, 1940.					M.	F.		
ALL CAUSES	...	...	...	...	35	36		
1	Typhoid and Paratyphoid Fever	...	—	—				
2	Measles	...	...	...	—	—		
3	Scarlet Fever	...	...	...	—	—		
4	Whooping Cough	...	...	...	—	—		
5	Diphtheria	...	...	...	—	—		
6	Influenza	...	...	...	—	—		
7	Encephalitis lethargica	...	...	...	—	—		
8	Cerebro-spinal fever	...	...	...	—	—		
9	Tuberculosis of respiratory system	...	2	3			To the total death-rate of 14·3	
10	Other tuberculous diseases	...	1	1			Infectious Disease contributed	·00
11	Syphilis	...	—	—			Tuberculosis	1·42
12	General paralysis of insane	...	—	—			Cancer	1·62
13	Cancer, malignant disease	...	4	4			Heart Disease	4·87
14	Diabetes	...	—	—			Respiratory Diseases	1·21
15	Cerebral hæmorrhage, &c.	...	3	7			Apoplexy	2·03
16	Heart disease	...	12	12			Premature Birth, &c.	·41
17	Aneurysm	...	—	—			Violence	·60
18	Other circulatory diseases	...	—	2			Other Diseases	2·1
19	Bronchitis	...	2	1			While the general death rate is above average, and the Infant Mortality high, Maternal Mortality in child-bed is nil.	
20	Pneumonia (all forms)	...	1	1				
21	Other respiratory diseases	...	1	—				
22	Peptic ulcer	...	—	—				
23	Diarrhœa, &c. (under 2 years)	...	—	—				
24	Appendicitis	...	—	—				
25	Cirrhosis of liver	...	—	—				
26	Other diseases of liver	...	—	—				
27	Other digestive diseases	...	1	2				
28	Acute and chronic nephritis	...	1	—				
29	Puerperal Sepsis	...	—	—				
30	Other puerperal causes	...	—	—				
31	Congenital debility, premature birth, &c.	...	2	—				
32	Suicide	...	—	1				
33	Road Traffic Accidents	...	—	—				
34	Other violence	...	1	1				
35	Other diseases	...	4	1				
Special Causes (included in No. 35 above) :								
	Small-Pox	...	—	—				
	Poliomyelitis	...	—	—				
	Polioencephalitis	...	—	—				

B.—PROVISION OF HEALTH SERVICES.

(1)—PUBLIC HEALTH OFFICERS.

M.O.H.—WILLIAM SCATTERTY, M.A., M.D., C.M., D.P.H.

Sanitary Inspector—J. W. THORNTON, A.R.S.I., M.S.I.A.

(2) PROVISION OF HOSPITALS, etc.

(3) PROFESSIONAL NURSING, MIDWIVES, etc.

} See former Reports.

C.—SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE AREA.

1.—WATER SUPPLY.

Source of supply—Bradford Corporation reservoir.

Number of dwellinghouses on public supply—1,571.

Your Engineer reports the following extensions of water mains for New Housing development and for renewal:—

PICARD LANE : 60 yards 4" diam. pipe, renewing existing 3" diam. pipe.

ELLIOT STREET : 200 yards 6" diam. pipe, renewing existing 4" diam. pipe.

The supply in any normal year will meet the requirements of the town, even although the average daily consumption for domestic and trade purposes exceeds 39 gallons per head of the population. 1,571 houses are on the public supply, leaving only outlying houses and farms on private supplies.

The quality of the water supplied to the town remains satisfactory, and samples submitted for analysis show the water meets the requirements of the standard recommended by the Minister of Health.

PLUMBO SOLVENCY : Samples of tap water have been examined for the presence of lead, with negative results.

2.—SEWERAGE, DRAINAGE AND SEWAGE DISPOSAL.

To your Sanitary Inspector I am indebted for the following summaries :—

“Except in isolated or outlying areas the area is well sewered, further extensions being carried out to new property in Dradishaw Road and Skipton Road districts.

At the Sewage Disposal Works, with the exception of excavations around the 110ft. diam. and the 90ft. diam. filter, there have been no works of alterations.

We are now able to provide a complete record of flows, and it is interesting to note that some 124,221,200 gallons of sewage effluent were treated during the year, whilst the rainfall over this period was recorded as 33.2 ins. With reference to the quantity of effluent treated, this shows an increase of 16 per cent. on last year's figures.

3.—CLOSET ACCOMMODATION, SCAVENGING AND REFUSE DISPOSAL.

(a) EXCREMENT REMOVAL.

As previously reported, with comparatively few exceptions, and these only in the more outlying districts, closets are now on the water carriage system.

Efforts are still being continued for the abolition of the antiquated and insanitary type of tippler by the provision of fresh-water cistern flush-type closets.

During the year 10 waste-water closets have been converted into fresh-water flush cistern closets.

The following are the numbers of each kind in use at the end of 1940 :

Number of Fresh-water Closets	...	...	...	...	1,119
„ Waste-water Closets	...	...	...	...	462
„ Pail or Tub Closets	...	...	...	...	13
„ Privies with Covered Middens	...	...	...	...	68
„ Privies with Open Middens	...	...	...	...	6

The number of privies and pail closets remain unchanged, and all these are in the outlying districts, where sewers and water supplies are not available.

(b) SCAVENGING.

This work continues to be carried out by the Council's staff, and to all appearance is done satisfactorily.

The total mileage covered in collection during the year was 3,243 miles.

With the exception of repairs to braking system, no major mechanical trouble has been experienced with the scavenging vehicle during this period.

The abolition of ashpits is steadily progressing, 19 being done away with during the year and 23 removeable dustbins provided in their place. There are now 1,061 ashbins in use and 341 ashpits.

REFUSE REMOVAL.—With the continuation of hostilities, the composition of the refuse is gradually changing. The bulk, if not the weight, is certainly greater, owing to the national demand for waste paper and materials. This has necessitated a slowing down in collection services, due to increased loads ; to overcome this difficulty it is intended to provide a detached trailer of 1½ cu. yds. capacity.

REFUSE DISPOSAL.—The whole of the town's refuse is tipped under controlled methods on the old sludge beds at the Council's Sewage Disposal Works. During the year 853 loads weighing 1,365 tons, were collected and tipped at a cost of 12s. a ton, including cost of disposal.

SALVAGE.—Waste paper continues to be the main source of income, nevertheless scrap tin has proved a welcome additional source. Owing to the bulk and heavy transport cost it was decided to crush the tins by means of an existing stone crusher at the tip. This has proved satisfactory and enabled much heavier loads to be transported at one operation.

The returns available are for a nine months period only and include the months of April, May and June, when national salvage was being introduced to the country. During these months waste paper provided an income of £192, scrap metal, tins, etc., £77."

4.—SANITARY INSPECTION OF THE DISTRICT.

The district has been subject to routine inspection during the past year, and necessary steps taken for the abatement of nuisances and insanitary conditions when found.

Your Inspector reports the following sanitary work, etc., undertaken in the year ending December 31st, 1940:

Number of complaints received during the year	28
Number of Houses Built during the year (private enterprise) ...	0
Number of Houses, Premises, etc., Inspected	397
Number of Houses under the Housing and Town Planning Acts	—
House Drains Repaired, Cleansed, etc.	17
House Drains Trapped and Ventilated	1
Waste-pipes Trapped	3
Water Closets Repaired, Cleansed, etc.	—
Additional W.C.'s provided where insufficiency was found ...	2
Water Closets provided to New Houses	1
Waste-water Closets converted to Water Closets	12
Houses connected to sewer	—
Water Supply—Houses provided with	—
Sanitary Bins provided to New Houses	—
Sanitary Bins provided in place of insanitary ashpits	17
Dustbins provided where existing bins were dilapidated ...	32
Dustbins provided where insufficiency was found	—
Removal of Offensive Accumulations	—
Milk Samples taken for Sediment Test (evidence visible dirt) ...	8
Milk Samples taken for Bacteriological Examination	4
Milk Samples taken for Adulteration Examination	4
Houses Disinfected after infectious disease	12
Slaughterhouse Inspections	—
Bakehouse Inspections	14
Dairies and Cowsheds Inspections	163
Premises Examined under Factory and Workshops Act	21
Tents, Vans, Sheds inspected	6
Samples of Water taken for bacteriological examination (Public Supplies)	2
Vermineous Premises disinfected	1
Plans approved	10
Plans disapproved	—
Statutory Notices	41
Preliminary Notices (Informal)	28

NATIONAL RAT WEEK.—Posters were again exhibited directing the attention of the public to the desirability of destroying rats and mice.

The Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries leaflets were given to persons interested. Extensive baiting and trapping were practised.

SWIMMING BATHS AND POOLS.—None in the district.

ERADICATION OF BUGS.—One Council house was infested. Measures taken—intensive spraying, followed by fumigation by Local Authority.

5.—PREMISES AND OCCUPATIONS CONTROLLED BY BYE-LAWS.

All premises and occupations within the district which can be controlled by Bye-laws are strictly supervised.

(a) COMMON LODGINGHOUSES OR HOUSES LET IN LODGINGS.—None in district.

(b) BAKEHOUSES.—All the ten bakehouses in the district have been inspected, and in general they are kept in a reasonably satisfactory condition.

(c) OFFENSIVE TRADES.—The number of offensive trades remains the same as in previous years, namely, a tannery and a tripe-boiling establishment, and each has been inspected without finding cause for complaint.

(d) CANAL BOATS.—Six were inspected and found to be satisfactory.

(e) **FACTORIES AND WORKSHOPS.**—There are 63 Workshops in the district, comprising the following :—

Confectioners	...	...	...	...	...	...	17
Nailmakers	...	...	...	...	...	...	2
Tailors	...	...	...	...	...	...	1
Shoemakers and Cloggers	...	...	...	...	...	...	9
Plumbers	...	...	...	...	...	...	4
Tinners	...	...	...	...	...	...	1
Bakers	...	...	...	...	...	...	11
Dressmakers and Milliners	...	...	...	...	...	...	6
Watchmaker	...	...	...	...	...	...	1
Stocking-knitter	...	...	...	...	...	...	1
Joiners	...	...	...	...	...	...	8
Tripe-boilers	...	...	...	...	...	...	1
Tanner	...	...	...	...	...	...	1
							—
							63

(f) **CAMPING SITES.**—None within Urban District.

(g) **SMOKE ABATEMENT.**—Six smoke observations were taken during the year, there being, however, little cause for complaint, as in only one case was black smoke emitted.

(h) **SCHOOLS.**—The two schools in the district—Hothfield Street and Aire View—both are provided with good water supply and automatically-flushed lavatory accommodation.

(i) **SHOPS ACT, 1934.**—Number of visits—21. Unsatisfactory conditions—2.”

J. W. THORNTON, Sanitary Inspector.

D.—HOUSING.

PROGRESS OF BUILDING.

New Houses erected :

	1934	1935	1936	1937	1938	1939	1940
By Private Enterprise	46	44	56	22	15	7	—
By Council	—	—	—	—	—	—	—

STATISTICS (MINISTRY OF HEALTH TABLE).

1.—INSPECTION OF DWELLINGHOUSES DURING THE YEAR :

(1) (a) Total number of Dwellinghouses inspected for housing defects (under Public Health or Housing Acts	...	...	...	...	...	...	61
(b) Number of Inspections made	...	...	...	...	...	...	97
(2) (a) Number inspected and recorded under the Housing Regulations	...	...	...	...	...	...	—
(b) Number of Inspections made	...	...	...	...	...	...	—
(3) Number found in such a state as to be unfit for human habitation	...	...	...	...	...	...	—
(4) Number found not in all respects reasonably fit for human habitation	...	...	...	...	...	...	8

2.—REMEDY OF DEFECTS WITHOUT SERVICE OF FORMAL NOTICES :

Number rendered fit as a result of informal action by the Local Authority	...	8
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3.—ACTION UNDER STATUTORY POWERS :—

(a) Proceedings under Sections 9, 10 and 16 of the Housing Act, 1936 :—

(1) Number of dwellinghouses in respect of which notices were served requiring repairs	...	...	...	...	...	...	—
(2) Number of dwellinghouses which were rendered fit after service of formal notices :							
(a) By Owner	...	...	...	...	...	...	—
(b) By Local Authority in default of Owners	...	...	...	...	...	...	—

(b) Proceedings under Public Health Acts :									
(1)	Number of dwellinghouses in respect of which notices were served requiribg defects to be remedied	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	7
(2)	Number of dwellinghouses in which defects were remedied after service of formal notices :								
	(a) By Owners	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	7
	(b) By Local Authority in default of Owners	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	—
(c) Proceedings under sections 11 and 13 of the Housing Act, 1936 :									
(1)	Number of dwellinghouses in respect of which Demolition Orders were made	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	—
(2)	Number of dwellinghouses demolished in pursuance of Demolition Orders	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	—
(d) Proceedings under Section 12 of the Housing Act, 1936 :									
(1)	Number of separate tenements or underground rooms in respect of which Closing Orders were made	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	—
(2)	Number of separate tenements or underground rooms in respect of which Closing Orders were determined, the tenement or room having been rendered fit	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	—
4.—HOUSING ACT, 1936—OVERCROWDING :—									
(a)	(i.) Number of dwellings overcrowded at end of year	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	—
	(ii.) Number of families dwelling therein	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	—
	(iii.) Number of persons dwelling therein	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	—
(b)	New Cases of overcrowding reported during the year	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	—
(c)	(i.) Number of cases of overcrowding relieved	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	—
	(ii.) Number of persons thus relieved	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	—
(d)	Number of houses again overcrowded after abatement	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	—
(e)	Any other particulars of interest	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	—

GENERAL HOUSING CONDITIONS.

In view of the prevailing conditions, it is only to be expected that building by private enterprise has come to a stop. The scarcity of materials gives no hope of improvement.

The continuation of hostilities and consequent influx of evacuees has resulted in all available housing accommodation being taken. The erection of an ordnance factory in the district will undoubtedly present housing difficulties in the near future.

J. W. THORNTON, Sanitary Inspector.

E.—INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD.

(a) MILK AND COWSHEDS.

There are 62 producers occupying 96 sheds, and approximately 850 cows. Inspection of sheds, 73; total inspections, 185.

(b) MEAT AND SLAUGHTERHOUSES.

The two registered and three licensed slaughterhouses are closed for the "duration." Inspection and slaughtering are now conducted at the central depot in Skipton.

F.—PREVALENCE AND CONTROL OF INFECTIOUS DISEASE.

(a) NON-NOTIFIABLE DISEASE.

The District was comparatively free from non-notifiable disease, the exceptions being Measles and Chicken Pox, 203 cases of measles and 73 of Chicken Pox being reported.

Influenza : No deaths.

Cancer : Eight deaths, compared with 10 in 1939. Sites involved : Mouth 1 M., stomach and duodenum 0, breast 1 F., other sites 3 M., 3 F.

(b) NOTIFIABLE DISEASE.

There were notified 9 cases of Scarlet Fever or suspected Scarlet Fever (compared with 2, 40, 23, 19 and 10 in the previous five years), 2 cases of Diphtheria, 1 of Pneumonia, 2 Erysipelas, and 2 Cerebro Spinal Fever.

Removed to Hospital : Scarlet Fever 9, Diphtheria 2, and 3 others.

Mortality : Nil.

Death-rate from Zymotic Disease : Nil.

(c) TUBERCULOSIS.

As in past years, a register is kept, the houses visited, particulars obtained and advice given as to precautions to be adopted with regard to cleanliness of premises, ventilation, sleeping accommodation and the prevention of indiscriminate spitting. Printed instructions are supplied, and a sputum flask provided where necessary. Disinfection of the rooms occupied by the patient is carried out on removal or death.

(a) INCIDENCE :

Pulmonary : 2 Males (age 52 and 56 ; 1 Female (age 20).

Non-pulmonary : 0.

(b) MORTALITY :

Pulmonary : 2 Males ; 3 Females.

Non-Pulmonary : 1 Male ; 1 Female.

Death-rate from Tuberculosis, 1·2, compared with ·8, ·4 and 7·6 in the previous three years.

Number on Register at end of year : Pulmonary, 13 Males, 2 Females ; Non-Pulmonary, 1 Male, 1 Female.

No action was found necessary under the Public Health (Prevention of Tuberculosis) Regulations, 1925, relating to tuberculous employees in the milk trade, nor under the P.H. Act, 1925, Sec. 62, which empowers certain cases of Tuberculosis to be compulsorily removed to Hospital.

(d) PREVENTION OF BLINDNESS (P.H. Act, 1936, Section 176).

Apart from provision by the County Council of hospital treatment for Ophthalmia Neonatorum, welfare centres, school clinics and the systematic examination of school-children, no action has been taken by the Council.

BACTERIOLOGICAL EXAMINATIONS AT COUNTY LABORATORY : Sputum for tubercle bacilli, 7 ; Swabs for Diphtheria, 9 ; Widal, 1.

I would here beg to express my indebtedness to Mr. Thornton, Sanitary Inspector, for valuable assistance in carrying on the sanitary administration of the district, and for supplying many details of work carried out by his department during the year under review.

WILL SCATTERTY, M.A., M.D., D.P.H.,

Medical Officer of Health.

Keighley,

July, 1941.

COMPARATIVE TABLE.

BIRTH-RATE, DEATH-RATE ANALYSIS OF MORTALITY, ETC., IN 1940.

	England and Wales.	126 County Boroughs and Great Towns including London.	148 Smaller Towns (Resident Populations 25,000 to 50,000 at 1931 Census)	Craven Combined District.
	Rates per 1,000 Population.			
BIRTHS :				
Live	14.6	16.0	15.7	12.4
Still	0.55	0.64	0.55	0.55
DEATHS :				
All Causes	14.3	15.8	12.8	14.3
Typhoid and Paratyphoid Fevers	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Smallpox	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Measles	0.02	0.02	0.02	0.01
Scarlet Fever	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Whooping Cough	0.02	0.02	0.02	0.01
Diphtheria	0.06	0.01	0.05	0.00
Influenza	0.32	0.29	0.30	0.08
NOTIFICATIONS :				
Smallpox	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Scarlet Fever	1.63	1.53	1.57	1.48
Diphtheria	1.16	1.29	1.21	0.28
Enteric Fever	0.07	0.06	0.10	0.08
Erysipelas	0.33	0.36	0.30	0.30
Pneumonia	1.20	1.37	1.00	0.28
	Rates per 1,000 Live Births.			
Deaths under 1 year of age ...	55	61	54	51
Deaths from Diarrhoea and Enteritis under 2 years of age.	4.6	5.9	4.4	0.01
	Rates per 1,000 Total Births (i.e. Live and Still).			
MATERNAL MORTALITY :				
Puerperal Sepsis	0.52	} Not available		1.3
Others	1.64			2.6
Total	2.16			3.9
NOTIFICATIONS :				
Puerperal Fever	11.9	13.9	9.7	3.9
Puerperal Pyrexia				

Silsden
Urban District Council.

Annual Report

OF THE

Medical Officer of Health

FOR

1940.

KEIGHTLEY, August, 1941.

THE GRAYSON HERALD LTD., SKIPTON.